

Truth's Looking Glass;

O R,

A Fairing for a faithful Family;

Being a necessary Table, very fit to be placed in all houses, by those that desire to bring up their Children and Servants in such order and decency, as becometh Christian Families; being very good instructions for Masters and Parents, Children and Servants; wherein they may learn their Duty how to behave themselves before God and Man, that he may take a delight to dwell amongst you: And I desire all you that hear or read this Table, which is set out on purpose for the good of you and yours, to observe and do this so far forth, as God shall enable you, Read what Moses said to the children of Israel in Deut. 11. And take it as spoke to you, either young or old that hears or reads this Table. Behold I set before you this day, a Blessing and a Curse, take heed therefore that you do all these Commandments and Laws I set before you this day.

A Table very fit to be observed & learned by masters & parents that have children or servants.

Another Table very fit to be learned and observed by all Children and Servants that desire to be the Children and Servants of God.

First, for your Parents, I begin with Abraham the Father of the Faithful, Gen. 18. 19. For I know him that will command his Children, and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judgement, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him, God commands the children of Israel to teach their Children his Statutes and Laws, read the 4th. of Deut. and the 11th. You that are Parents remember this, it is the Command God layeth upon you, and will require it of you to be fulfilled: but there are too many in this Nation nay in every town, to their shame, that either cannot, will not, or dare not, teach the Laws of God to their Children; some cannot, they are ignorant themselves for want of Grace, or for want of means to learn, their minds being more to get Wealth than wisdom, though it be with a bad Conscience, as if wealth here would purchase Heaven hereafter for them and their children too.

Secondly, some there be that will not, they are resolute themselves, not fearing God nor Man, that run on in all manner of wickedness, in Swearing, and Lying, Killing and Stealing, Drunkenness, and Gluttony, and how can such instruct their Children when they despise instructions themselves, that neither God's threatenings in his Law, nor his mercies in the Gospel, which is daily declared to them by his Ministers (if they will hear them) can bring them to amendment of life; but rather scoff at those his spellengers that would advise them to turn from their wickedness and live. But take heed all ye that forget God, and for your Children sake, if not for your own souls sake; leave off those crying sins which will cause the heavy Judgements of God to light heavily upon yours. For the Lord will visit the sins of the Fathers upon the Children, to the third and fourth Generation of them that hate him, &c.

Thirdly, some there be that dare not teach their Children, they are afraid to displease them, but leave them alone in their wickedness, either countenancing of them, wink at their faults, or giving them the name of Liberty too much in their own hands, they say, we are free to do as we please, it brings them to the gallows many times and then they cry out upon their Parents, and say if they had not given them so much of their own will, they had never come to that shameful death, a sad hearing when Parents for want of timely instruction, or correction, should be a means to bring their bodies to a shameful death here, and endanger their bodies and souls here: For. Remember what Solomon saith, He that spareth his rod hateth his Son, but he that loveth him, chasteneth him beatings, Prov. 13. 24. Chastise thy Son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his mourning, Prov. 19. 18. Again, He that loveth his Son, chasteneth him often to keep him from the Rod that he may have joy of him in the end, Ecclesiasticus the 30. read the Chapter all over, though in the Apocrypha it is good Reading and Instructions. Like wife if you have Servants, you ought to be careful of them also, with moderate correction and instruction. I shall give you two or three Proofs, and leave you to read the rest in your Bibles at home, in such places as I shall quote to you; harken you Masters, Give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Master in Heaven, Colos. the 4. ver. 1. Likewise you Masters, Do that which is right unto your servants, putting away threatening, for the Lord hath no respect of persons, Ephes. 6. If thy Brother or Sister serve thee six years, and the seventh year depart from thee thou shalt not let him go from thine empty, Deut. 15. The wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night till morning, Lev. 19. ver. 13. I pray God there be not too many in this Nation of such Masters, as St. James speaks of in the fifth chapter of his Epistle, Go ye too you rich men, saith I. weep and howl for the miseries that shall come upon you, your riches are corrupt, and your garments are Mouldy, and your Gold and silver cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you: and shall eat your flesh as were a fire: For ye have heaped up Treasure for the last day: Behold the hire of the laborer which have reaped your Fields which is of you, kept back by fraud, cryeth, and the cry of them that hath Reaped, are entered into the ears of the Lord of Saboths. Consider this you Masters, and likewise you Parents, and let the Law of God be before your eyes, to do that that is just and right before God and Man, and as much as in you lieth to bring up your Children and Servants in the like manner.

Now a word to you that have read or heard this rule of instructions, you first that are Parents, and likewise Masters, do not countenance these three sins that chiefly reign in youth; Swearing and Lying, Peremptoriness, Scolding: but first look to conquer these vices in your selves, for how can you controul or correct them for such faults as they daily hear and see from you, especially Swearing and Lying. Remember the flying Book, with the curse that went out against the house of the Swearer and the Liar, Zach. 5. that it should consume the very Timber and the Stones thereof: because of Oaths they shall and mourns, saith the Prophet, read Hos. 4. 1, 2, 3, verses, and well may this be said and mourn, for never was more swearing and lying from the gray head to the Cradle, as I may say, men that can scarce go for age, and children that can scarce speak plain, are so accustomed to this grievous sin of cursing and swearing, that we must look for a heavy Judgment to fall upon this Nation speedily, without true Repentance. Therefore you that are Masters and Parents, that desire to be called Christians, see you be so.

I shall desire you, as Moses commanded the Children of Israel, to lay up these words in your hearts and your souls, and bind them for a sign, and teach them unto your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou sittest down, and when thou liest up, that your days may be multiplied, and the days of our Children, in the Land, Deut. 11.

Honor thy Father and Mother, that the days may be long in the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. 'Tis the Commandment of God, and therefore slight it not, and it comprehends the duty we owe to Magistrates too, as well as our natural Parents, for they ought to be as nursing Fathers to the Church and Common-wealth. But I will shew you what duty you owe to your natural Parents, and then reason will shew you the other; but those that are disobedient to their natural Parents in their youth, care but little how they obey either God or Magistrates, either in their riper age, a sin which of late is grown to a great height, the more is the pity: how light and slight both children set by their Parents now a days, nay, some are grown to that height, of disobedience, that they will scorn to obey their own Parents, despising the Mother that bore them, and the father that gave them suck, because it may be they are brought to poverty by being ruined in their times, and they, it may be grown rich by ruins of their times; nay, many that count themselves in the number of Saints, but whatsoever they conceit themselves here: disobedience is a step leading to Hell, and I will never take them for Saints, for without true repentance of sin, there is no coming to Heaven. There is four Generations which you shall read of in the Proverbs 30. which I will refer it to any true Christian, if there be not too many amongst us in this Nation. First, There is a Generation that curseth their Father, and doth not bless their Mother. Secondly, there is a Generation that is pure in their own conceit, and yet are not washed from their filthiness. Thirdly, there is a Generation that is haughty, and their eyelids are not lifted up. Fourthly, there is a Generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaws as knives to eat up the afflicted out of the earth, and the poor from among men.

Now you see that the disobedient is the King-leader of these four Generations. He that curseth his Father or Mother, his light shall be put out in obscure darkness, Prov. 20. Obey thy Father that hath begotten thee, and despise not thy Mother when she is old, Prov. 22. The eye that mocketh his Father, and despiseth the instruction of his Mother, let the Ravens of the Valleys pick it out, and the young Eagles eat it, Prov. 30. Contrariwise, a wise Child will obey the instructions of his Father, but a scoundrel will hear no rebuke: The Laws that God commanded Moses to repeat to the Children of Israel, he delivered in the first, as you may read Lev. 19. Ye shall fear every man his Father and his Mother, and shall keep my Sabbath, for I am the Lord your God. saith the Apostles, Children, obey your Parents in all things, for that is well pleasing to the Lord Colos. 3. 20. Likewise, for you servants the Apostle saith, Exhort servants that they be obedient to their own Masters, and to please them in all things, not answering again, neither to be pickers, but that they show all good faithfulness, that they may do worship to the doctrine of Christ our Savior in all things Titus 2. 9. Again, Servants obey them that are your bodily Masters, with fear and trembling, with singleness of heart as unto Christ, not doing service to the eye, as those that go about to please men, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will, serving the Lord and not men, Ephes. 6. 7.

And to conclude, let me desire you to read, or cause to be read in your Families, those places of Scripture which are necessary to be, not only read, but printed in your hearts, that your light may shine before men, that they seeing your good works, may glorify your Father which is in Heaven. Pray read at your leisure diligently with understanding, those places of Scripture which here I have named, which are too long to be set a large in this Table. The third chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colos. and Ephes. 6. and Prov. 23. And for your servants, there is an excellent chapter in Gen. 24. where you shall find how faithful Abraham's servant was when he sent him to look for a Wife for his Son Isaac, how when he was gone on his journey, he prayed to God continually to guide him, and bless him, and by Prayer he did effect his Masters business with speed; and I desire all you servants, take that course, serve God by Prayer, and then your Masters will be the better served by you, and God will give a blessing to your labours, and for you Children, there is three excellent chapters for you to read in Eccles. it is in the Apocrypha, they are most admirable good instructions, and though they be not Canonical, they are wholesome and comfortable, but if you will not read them, I hope here is enough besides, with the blessing of God with it, to instruct any family where this Table is set up, and I not only desire it to be placed in our houses, but likewise practised: which if you do, I shall not think my time lost in setting it forth; nor I hope you will not think your money ill laid out in buying it. And let every man that hath this in his Family, say to others as shall object against it, as Joshua said to the Children of Israel, If it seem evil to you to serve the Lord, choose you whom you will serve, but I and my house will serve the Lord, Joshua the 24.